

COORDINATED BRAKE CONTROL SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a coordinated brake control system of a hybrid brake system having two kinds of brake apparatuses.

[0002] U.S. Patent No. 6244674 (\approx Japanese Patent Provisional Publication No. 11-98609) discloses a coordinated brake control system for controlling a hybrid brake system constructed by a regenerative brake apparatus and a hydraulic brake apparatus. This coordinated brake control system has been arranged to improve a fuel consumption by mainly operating the regenerative brake apparatus when a vehicle speed is higher than a predetermined vehicle speed and to decrease the regenerative braking torque while increasing the hydraulic braking torque as the vehicle speed is decreased. Further, a characteristic of the regenerative braking torque to be reduced is modified in response to a pressure difference between a master-cylinder hydraulic pressure and a wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure so as to smoothly compensate for lack of the regenerative braking torque.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] However, since this coordinated brake control system has been designed without taking account of a response delay of the hydraulic brake apparatus and a response delay of the regenerative brake apparatus, it is difficult to accurately control the hydraulic braking torque and the regenerative braking torque so as to accurately correspond the sum (total braking torque) of

the regenerative braking torque and the hydraulic braking torque to a target total torque.

[0004] The applicant of the present invention has researched various methods for further smoothly varying a ratio between the regenerative braking torque and the hydraulic braking torque during a coordinated brake control while suppressing a fluctuation of the total braking torque actual value. Through the various researches, the inventors of the present invention have obtained a result that when a phase compensation is executed as to each of a hydraulic braking-torque command value and a regenerative braking-torque command value in addition to the control of U.S. Patent No. 6244674, a fluctuation of the total braking torque actual value was not improved. The inventors have found that the pressure difference between the command value and the actual value of the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure includes an anticipated response delay, and this anticipated response delay has been already included in the phase compensation and is different from the control error and that even if the regenerative braking torque is directly corrected, a predetermined response delay will be generated until this correction is reflected in the actual regenerative braking torque.

[0005] Further, the inventors have reached a conclusion that the generation of the response delay is caused by correcting the regenerative braking-torque command value of a high-responsibility brake such as a regenerative brake apparatus on the basis of a difference between the command value and the actual value of the hydraulic braking torque, and that this problem is solved by correcting a regenerative braking-torque command value

of a high-responsibility brake according to a difference between a reference model response value relative to the hydraulic braking-torque and an actual braking torque, where the reference model response value is obtained on the basis of a braking torque reference model which is determined upon taking account of a delay of a low-responsibility brake braking-torque relative to a torque command value of a low-responsibility brake such as a hydraulic brake apparatus.

10 [0006] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an improved coordinated brake control system which realizes the inventors' invention discussed above.

[0007] An aspect of the present invention resides in a coordinated brake control system for a hybrid brake system of a vehicle. The coordinated brake control system comprising: a vehicle operating condition detector detecting a vehicle operating condition of the vehicle; a first brake generating a first braking torque according to a first braking torque command value; a second brake generating a second braking torque according to a second braking torque command value, a control responsibility of the first brake being higher than a control responsibility of the second braking torque; and a controller connected to the vehicle operating condition detector, the first brake and the second brake, the controller being arranged, to determine a total braking torque command value according to the vehicle operating condition, to distribute the total braking torque command value into the first braking torque command value and the second braking torque command value, to estimate the second braking torque, to calculate a reference model

response value relative to the second braking torque command value on the basis of a braking torque reference model which is determined upon taking account of a delay of the second braking torque relative to the second
5 braking torque command value, and to correct the first braking torque command value according to a braking torque difference between the estimated second braking torque and the reference model response value.

[0008] Another aspect of the present invention resides
10 in a method of controlling a hybrid brake system of a vehicle, the hybrid brake comprising a first brake and a second brake whose control responsibility is not higher than a control responsibility of the first brake, the method comprises an operation of detecting a vehicle
15 operating condition of the vehicle; an operation of determining a total braking torque command value according to the vehicle operating condition; an operation of distributing the total braking torque command value into a first braking torque command value
20 according which the first brake generates a first braking torque and a second braking torque command value according which the second brake generates a second braking torque; an operation of estimating the second braking torque; an operation of calculating a reference
25 model response value relative to the second braking torque command value on the basis of a braking torque reference model which is determined upon taking account of a delay of the second braking torque relative to the second braking torque command value; and an operation of
30 correcting the first braking torque command value according to a braking torque difference between the

estimated second braking torque and the reference model response value.

[0009] The other objects and features of this invention will become understood from the following
5 description with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing a complex brake provided with a coordinated brake control system according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

10 [0011] Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing controls executed by a coordinated brake controller of the coordinated brake control system shown in Fig. 1.

[0012] Fig. 3 is a flowchart showing a control program executed by the coordinated brake controller.

15 [0013] Fig. 4 is a graph showing a characteristic of an engine braking force relative to a vehicle speed when an accelerator pedal is released.

[0014] Fig. 5 is a graph showing a flat road running resistance relative to the vehicle speed.

20 [0015] Fig. 6 is a block diagram showing a deceleration controller employed in the first embodiment of the present invention.

[0016] Fig. 7 is a graph showing an allowable maximum value and a maximum limit value of a regenerative braking
25 torque relative to the vehicle speed.

[0017] Fig. 8 is a graph showing a normal distribution characteristic of the braking torque to front and rear wheels.

[0018] Fig. 9 is a block diagram showing a hydraulic
30 controller for controlling a wheel cylinder hydraulic pressure in the first embodiment of the present invention.

[0018] Figs. 10A through 10F are time charts showing a

coordinated control operation in case that wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error is around zero.

[0019] Figs. 11A through 11F are time charts showing a coordinated control operation in case that the correction
5 of the regenerative braking-torque command value and the phase advance compensation are not executed even when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error is generated.

[0020] Figs. 12A through 12F are time charts showing a coordinated control operation in case that the correction
10 of the regenerative braking-torque command value is executed, and the phase advance compensation is not executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error is generated.

[0021] Figs. 13A through 13F are time charts showing a
15 coordinated control operation in case that both of the correction of the regenerative braking-torque command value and the phase advance compensation are executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error is generated.

[0022] Fig. 14A is a part of a flowchart showing a
20 newly employed steps in the control program executed by the coordinated brake controller of a second embodiment according to the present invention, and Fig. 14B is a block diagram showing a control executed by the coordinated brake controller of the coordinated brake
25 control system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

[0023] Figs. 15A through 15F are time charts showing a coordinated control operation of the hybrid brake system shown in Fig. 14B in case that a deceleration feedback
30 control is executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error is generated.

[0024] Figs. 16A through 16F are time charts showing a coordinated control operation of the hybrid brake system shown in Fig. 14B in case that the deceleration feedback control, the correction of the regenerative

5 braking-torque command value, and the phase advance compensation are executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error is generated.

[0025] Figs. 17A through 17F are time charts showing a coordinated control operation of the hybrid brake system shown in Fig. 14B in case that the deceleration feedback control, the correction of the regenerative

10 braking-torque command using a high-frequency component of the hydraulic control error, and the phase advance compensation are executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic

15 control error is generated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0026] Referring to Figs. 1 through 13F, there is discussed a first embodiment of a coordinated brake control system for a hybrid brake system in accordance with the present invention.

[0027] Fig. 1 shows the hybrid brake system comprising the coordinated brake control system according to the first embodiment of the present invention. The hybrid brake system comprises a hydraulic brake apparatus of generating a braking force by supplying a hydraulic pressure to a wheel cylinder 2 provided for each driving wheel 1 (in Fig. 1, only one wheel is shown), and a regenerative brake apparatus of converting a wheel rotating energy into an electric power by means of an alternating-current (AC) synchronous motor 4 which is connected to driving wheel 1 through a gear box 3.

[0028] The coordinated brake control system of the hybrid brake system is arranged to effectively recover a regenerative energy by decreasing a braking hydraulic pressure to wheel cylinder 2 during when the braking torque (force) is mainly produced (covered) by the regenerative braking torque using AC synchronous motor 4.

[0029] First, there is discussed the hydraulic brake apparatus which does not exceed in response characteristic as compared with a regenerative brake apparatus. When a brake pedal 5 is depressed according to the driver's braking intent, a depression force of brake pedal 5 is amplified by a hydraulic booster 6. The amplified depression force pushes a piston cup of a master cylinder 7, and therefore master cylinder 7 outputs a master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} corresponding to the depression force of brake pedal 5 toward a brake hydraulic conduit 8. Although Fig. 1 shows that brake hydraulic conduit 8 is connected only to wheel cylinder 2 of front drive wheel 1, it is of course that brake hydraulic conduit 8 is connected to other wheel cylinders of other three wheels.

[0030] Brake fluid in a reservoir 9 is commonly used by hydraulic booster 6 and master cylinder 7 and serves as working fluid. Hydraulic booster 6 comprises a pump 10 which sucks brake fluid from reservoir 9 and discharges the brake fluid toward an accumulator 11 to store the pressurized working fluid in accumulator 11. Further, the hydraulic pressure in accumulator 11 is controlled by a sequential control using a pressure sensor 12 provided in a conduit between pump 10 and accumulator 11.

[0031] Hydraulic booster 6 amplifies the depression force applied to brake pedal 5 using the hydraulic pressure in accumulator 11 as a pressure source, and presses the piston cup of master cylinder 7 by means of the amplified depression force. Master cylinder 7 generates master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} corresponding to the brake pedal depression force by pressingly packing (containing) the brake fluid supplied from reservoir 9 in brake conduit 8, and supplies wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{wc} to wheel cylinder 2 as a base pressure.

[0032] Wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{wc} is feedback controlled using the accumulator pressure in accumulator 11, as discussed later. In order to achieve this feedback control, an electromagnetic selector valve 13 is provided in brake hydraulic conduit 8, and a pressure increasing circuit 15 and a pressure decreasing circuit 17 are connected to a brake hydraulic conduit 8 at a position nearer to wheel cylinder 2 as compared with the position of electromagnetic selector valve 13. Pressure increasing circuit 15 extends from a discharging port of pump 10 and comprises a pressure increasing valve 14. Pressure decreasing circuit 17 extends from a suction port of pump 10 and comprises a pressure decreasing valve 16.

[0033] Electromagnetic selector valve 13 is a normal open valve, and therefore master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{wc} is increased by the pressure of accumulator 11 which is produced by the fluid communication with pressure increasing circuit 15 when electromagnetic selector valve 13 is in an off state corresponding to a normal open state. When a solenoid 13a of electromagnetic selector valve 13 is energized to close

brake hydraulic circuit 8, master cylinder 7 is simultaneously communicated with a stroke simulator 26 to apply a hydraulic load corresponding (equal) to that of wheel cylinders 2 to master cylinder 7. This
5 communication with stroke simulator 26 applies an operation feeling as same as that at the normal state to brake pedal 5.

[0034] Pressure increasing valve 14 is also a normal open valve and increases wheel-cylinder hydraulic
10 pressure Pwc using the pressure of accumulator 11 (by the communication with pressure increasing circuit 15) when put in the norm open state (de-energized). On the other hand, when a solenoid 14a of pressure increasing valve 14 is energized, increase of wheel-cylinder hydraulic
15 pressure Pwc is stopped by shutting off the communication between brake hydraulic conduit 8 and pressure increasing circuit 15. Pressure decreasing valve 16 is a normal close valve which is closed when a solenoid 16a is de-energized. When solenoid 16a is energized, pressure
20 decreasing circuit 16 is communicated with brake hydraulic conduit 8 so as to decrease wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pwc.

[0035] Pressure increasing valve 14 and pressure increasing valve 16 are put in closed state so that
25 pressure increasing circuit 15 and pressure decreasing circuit 17 are shut off from brake hydraulic conduit 8, during when electromagnetic selector valve 13 is put in an open state so as to open brake hydraulic conduit 8. Therefore, wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pwc is
30 determined from master-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pmc. Further, during when wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pwc is increased or decreased by operating pressure

increasing valve 14 or pressure decreasing valve 16, electromagnetic selector valve 13 is being turned on to shut off brake hydraulic conduit 8 so as not to be affected by master-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pmc.

5 [0036] Hydraulic brake controller 18 controls electromagnetic selector valve 13, pressure increasing valve 14 and pressure decreasing valve 16. Hydraulic brake controller 18 receives a signal indicative of master-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pmc from a pressure
10 sensor 19 and a signal indicative of wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pwc from a pressure sensor 20. Master-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pmc represents a braking torque (force) demanded by a driver, and wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pwc represents an
15 actual value of a hydraulic braking torque.

[0037] AC synchronous motor 4 is drivingly connected to each driving wheel 1 through gear box 3, and is controlled by a motor torque controller 21. Motor torque controller 21 outputs three-phase PWM signal, and
20 inverter (DC-AC inverting current control circuit) 22 inverts DC into AC and supplies the inverted AC to AC synchronous motor 4. When a driving torque (driving force) by motor 4 is required, driving wheels 1 are driven by an electric power from a DC battery 23. When a
25 braking torque (braking force) by motor 4 is required, a vehicle motion energy is recovered in battery 23 by executing a regenerative braking torque control.

[0038] As shown in Fig. 1, a hydraulic brake controller 18 and a motor torque controller 21 are
30 networked with a coordinated brake controller 24. Hydraulic brake controller 18 controls the hydraulic brake apparatus according to the command signal from

coordinated brake controller 24, and motor torque controller 21 controls the regenerative braking control apparatus according to the command signal from coordinated brake controller 24. More specifically, 5 motor torque controller 21 controls a regenerative brake torque generated by motor 4 on the basis of a regenerative braking-torque command value outputted from coordination controller 24. When driving of driving wheels 1 is required, motor torque controller 21 executes 10 the driving torque control using motor 4. Further, motor torque controller 21 calculates an allowable maximum regenerative braking torque of motor 4, which is determined based on a charged state and a temperature of battery 23, and outputs a signal corresponding to the 15 allowable maximum regenerative braking torque to coordinated brake controller 24.

[0039] Coordinated brake controller 24 receives the signal indicative of master-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pmc from pressure sensor 19 through hydraulic brake 20 controller 18, the signal indicative of wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure Pwc from pressure sensor 20 through hydraulic brake controller 18, and a signal indicative of a wheel speed Vw of driving wheels 1 from wheel speed sensors 25.

25 [0040] Coordinated brake controller 24 executes a coordination control of the hybrid brake system by executing a processing based on the above input information, as shown by a block diagram in Fig. 2 and a flowchart in Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a timer interruption 30 processing executed at 10msec intervals.

[0041] At step S1 controller 24 calculates (measures) master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} and wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{wc} from the received information.

[0042] At step S2 controller 24 calculates a driving wheel speed V_w based on the received signal indicative of driving wheel speed V_w . Further, controller 24 calculates a driving-wheel deceleration α_v by executing a filtering processing of driving wheel speed V_w using a band-pass filter represented by the following transfer function $F_{bpf}(s)$.

$$F_{bpf}(s) = 1 / \{ (1/\omega^2) s^2 + (2\zeta/\omega) s + 1 \} \text{---(1)}$$

where s is Laplace operator. Actually, driving-wheel deceleration α_v is calculated using a recurrence formula obtained by discretizing the transfer function expressed by the expression (1) with Tustin (Bilinear) approximation.

[0043] At step S3 controller 24 reads a maximum regenerative braking torque T_{mmax} , which motor 4 is capable of generating, from a high-speed communication buffer between controller 24 and motor torque controller 21. As discussed above, motor torque controller 21 calculates maximum regenerative braking torque T_{mmax} according to a charged state of battery 23 and the like. For example, maximum regenerative braking torque T_{mmax} (driving wheel speed V_w) is varied according to vehicle speed VSP as shown in Fig. 7.

[0044] At step S4 controller 24 calculates a target deceleration α_{dem} of the vehicle using following expression (2), master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} and a constant K_1 which is determined according to vehicle specifications previously stored in ROM of controller 24.

$$\alpha_{\text{dem}} = -(P_{\text{mc}} \times K1) \quad \text{---(2)}$$

where a negative value of acceleration α is a deceleration, and a negative value of torque T is a braking torque.

5 [0045] Target deceleration α_{dem} is not determined only by master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} , which is a physical quantity demanded by a driver. For example, if the vehicle is equipped with an inter-vehicle distance control system and/or a cruise control system, target
10 deceleration α_{dem} is determined upon taking account of a physical quantity of an automatic braking executed by the inter-vehicle distance control system and/or the cruise control system.

[0046] At step S5 controller 24 estimates a vehicle
15 deceleration (engine brake deceleration) α_{eng} which is produced only by the negative driving force generated when the accelerator pedal is released, that is, by an engine brake force.

[0047] More specifically, controller 24 retrieves an
20 engine brake force estimated value (target engine brake force) T_{eng} from a map shown in Fig. 4, which has been previously stored in ROM of controller 24, according to vehicle speed VSP (driving wheel speed V_w) and a selected range (D-range or L-range) of an automatic transmission.

25 Further, controller 24 retrieves a flat-road running resistance T_{reg} from a map shown in Fig. 5, which has been previously stored in ROM of controller 24, according to vehicle speed VSP (driving wheel speed V_w).

Furthermore, controller 24 calculates engine brake
30 deceleration estimated value α_{eng} , which is an average value on a flat road, by dividing the sum of engine brake

force estimated value T_{eng} and flat-road running resistance T_{reg} by a vehicle weight Mv as shown by the following expression (3).

$$\alpha_{eng} = (T_{eng} + T_{reg})/Mv \quad \text{---(3)}$$

5 [0048] At step S6 controller 24 calculates a braking-torque command value T_{dff} (a feedforward compensation quantity), which is necessary to realize target deceleration α_{dem} by the following manner. That is, controller 24 converts target deceleration α_{dem} to the
 10 braking torque using constant K_2 determined from the vehicle specifications. Subsequently, braking-torque command value T_{dff} (feedforward compensation quantity) for target deceleration α_{dem} is obtained by filtering the braking torque corresponding to target deceleration α_{dem}
 15 through a characteristic $C_{FF}(s)$ of feedforward compensator (phase compensator) 51, which is represented by the following in expression (4) and functions to correspond a response characteristic $P_m(s)$ of a controlled object (vehicle) 54 to a characteristic $F_{ref}(s)$ of a reference
 20 model 52 in Fig. 6. Actually, braking-torque command value T_{dff} (feedforward compensation quantity) for target deceleration α_{dem} is calculated by discretizing the expression (4) as is the same manner discussed above.

$$G_{FF}(s) = F_{ref}(s)/P_m(s) \quad \text{---(4)}$$

$$25 \quad \quad \quad = (T_p \cdot s + 1) / (T_r \cdot s + 1) \quad \text{---(5)}$$

where T_p is a time constant, and T_r is also a time constant.

[0049] At step S7 controller 24 determines whether or not a brake pedal operation is executed, by determining
 30 whether or not master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is greater than or equal to a small set value. When the

determination at step S7 is affirmative, that is, when the brake pedal operation is executed, the program proceeds to step S10 wherein controller 24 determines whether or not a condition of no brake-pedal operation is continued for more than preset time t_{SET} by determining whether or not timer t_{BOFF} is greater than or equal to set time t_{SET} .

[0050] When the determination at step S10 is affirmative ($t_{BOFF} \geq t_{SET}$), that is, when the condition of no brake pedal operation continues for more than preset time t_{SET} , the program proceeds to step S11 wherein controller 24 updates deceleration reference value α_B to deceleration α_0 . When the determination at step S10 is negative, that is, when the condition of no brake pedal operation is not continued for more than preset time t_{SET} , the program jumps to step S12 wherein controller 24 resets timer t_{BOFF} at zero ($t_{BOFF}=0$).

[0051] At step S13 controller 24 calculates a total braking-torque command value necessary to achieving target deceleration α_{dem} by the following manner.

[0052] A deceleration controller employed in the first embodiment according to the present invention is constructed by a two-degree-of-freedom control system, and comprises feedforward compensator 51, reference model 52 and feedback compensator 53 as shown in Fig. 6.

Feedback compensator 53 achieves a close-loop performance such as the stability and the robustness of the control system, and feedforward compensator 51 achieves a responsibility to target deceleration α_{dem} as far as there is no model error.

[0053] In calculation of a braking-torque feedback compensation quantity T_{dfb} , reference model response deceleration α_{dem} is first obtained by filtering target deceleration α_{dem} through a reference model having a characteristic $F_{ref}(s)$ represented by the following expression (6).

$$F_{ref}(s) = 1 / (Tr \cdot s + 1) \quad \text{---(6)}$$

[0054] Further, as shown in Fig. 6, a deceleration feedback difference $\Delta\alpha$ is obtained by subtracting a difference $(\alpha_V - \alpha_B)$ of an actual deceleration α_V and an offset quantity α_B from reference model response deceleration α_{ref} , as follows.

$$\Delta\alpha = \alpha_{ref} - (\alpha_V - \alpha_B) \quad \text{---(7)}$$

Furthermore, braking torque compensation quantity T_{dfb} is obtained by filtering deceleration feedback difference $\Delta\alpha$ through feedback compensator 53 having a characteristic $C_{FB}(s)$ represented by the following expression (8).

$$C_{FB}(s) = (K_p \cdot s + K_i) / s \quad \text{---(8)}$$

In this first embodiment, this characteristic is achieved by a basic PI controller, and therefore control constants K_p and K_i thereof are determined upon taking account of a gain margin and a phase margin. Further, characteristics $F_{ref}(s)$ and $C_{FB}(s)$ are obtained by discretizing the expressions (6) and (8) as is the same manner discussed above.

[0055] Subsequently, total braking-torque command value T_{dcom} is obtained by summing braking-torque command value T_{dff} (feedforward compensation quantity) for target deceleration α_{dem} and braking torque feedback compensation quantity T_{dfb} ($T_{dcom} = T_{dff} + T_{dfb}$), as shown in Fig. 6.

With this series of executions at step S13, total braking-torque command value T_{dcom} is obtained. Therefore, step S13 in Fig. 3 corresponds to total braking-force command value determining means 31 in Fig.

5 2.

[0056] At step S14 subsequent to the execution of step S13 or S9, controller 24 calculates a maximum regenerative braking torque limit value $T_{mmax}(Lim)$ by executing a limiting operation of maximum regenerative
10 braking torque T_{mmax} as follows.

[0057] First, in order to ensure a margin for enabling the correction (plus and minus correction) of regenerating braking torque based on the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure control error, limit value $T_{mmax}(Lim)$
15 of the maximum regenerative braking torque is set at 80% of maximum regenerative braking torque T_{mmax} ($T_{mmax}(Lim)=0.8 \times T_{mmax}$), as shown by a broken line in Fig. 7.

[0058] Further, in order to accomplish the
20 regenerative coordinated brake control by smoothly varying a weighted ratio state of the regenerative braking and the hydraulic braking from a regenerative braking weighted state to a hydraulic braking weighted state, limit value $T_{mmax}(Lim)$ of the maximum regenerative
25 braking torque is set at a value represented by a bold line in Fig. 7 so as to gradually decrease a magnitude of limit value $T_{mmax}(Lim)$ toward zero as vehicle speed VSP (driving wheel speed V_w) decreases and to finally take zero, as shown in Fig. 7. Therefore, step S14 in Fig. 3
30 corresponds to maximum regenerative braking torque limiting means 32 in Fig. 2.

[0059] At step S15 controller 24 distributes total braking-torque command value T_{dcom} for regenerative coordination brake control into regenerative braking torque command T_{mcom} and hydraulic braking-torque command value T_{bcom} , based on maximum regenerative braking torque limit value $T_{mmax}(Lim)$. Therefore, step S15 corresponds to distributing hydraulic braking torque and regenerative braking torque means 33 in Fig. 2.

[0060] In this first embodiment according to the present invention, the distribution thereof is executed so that regenerative braking torque command T_{mcom} takes maximum regenerative braking torque limit value $T_{mmax}(Lim)$ as possible, that is, so as to consume maximum regenerative braking torque limit value $T_{mmax}(Lim)$ as possible. Further, hydraulic braking-torque command value T_{bcom} is distributed to the front wheel (driving wheel) side and the rear wheel (driven wheel) side. Further, since the first embodiment has been shown and described such that motor 4 for regenerative braking is provided only to front wheels 1 acting as driving wheels, there are occurred Mode 1 and Mode 2 where normal front and rear braking-torque distribution is maintained and Mode 3 and Mode 4 where normal front and rear distribution of braking torque cannot be maintained.

[0061] First, normal front-wheel braking-torque command value T_{dcomf} and the normal rear-wheel braking-torque command value T_{dcomr} are obtained by normally distributing total braking-torque command value T_{dcom} to the front wheel side and the rear wheel side on the basis of the map data shown in Fig. 8 which has been previously stored in ROM of controller 24. The normal

front and rear braking torque distribution is a front and rear braking force (torque) distribution characteristic which is a reference value when the regenerative braking is not executed, and has been determined upon taking
 5 account of the rear-wheel lock avoidance, the stability of the vehicle behavior, and the shortening of the braking distance which are caused by the weight movement between front and rear wheels during the braking operation.

10 [0062] Hereinafter, the regenerative coordination braking control by each Mode as follows.

[Mode 4]

When $T_{mmax}(Lim) \leq (T_{dcomf} + T_{dcomr})$, only the regenerative braking is employed as expressed by the
 15 following expressions (9A):

$$T_{bcomf} = 0,$$

$$T_{bcomr} = 0, \text{ and}$$

$$T_{mcom} = T_{dcomf} + T_{dcomr}. \quad \text{--- (9A)}$$

[Mode 3]

20 When $T_{mmax}(Lim) \leq T_{dcomf}$, the regenerative braking and the rear wheel hydraulic braking are employed as expressed by the following expressions (9B):

$$T_{bcomf} = 0$$

$$T_{bcomr} = T_{dcomf} + T_{dcomr} - T_{mmax}(Lim) \text{ and}$$

25 $T_{mcom} = T_{mmax}(Lim). \quad \text{--- (9B)}$

[Mode 2]

When $T_{dcomf} < T_{mmax}(Lim) \leq \text{small set value}$, the regenerative braking and the front and rear wheel hydraulic braking are employed as expressed by the
 30 following expressions (9C):

$$T_{bcomf} = T_{dcomf} - T_{mmax}(Lim),$$

$$T_{bcomr} = T_{dcomr}, \text{ and}$$

$T_{mcom} = T_{mmax}(Lim).$ --- (9C)

[Mode 1]

When other case except the above Modes 4, 3 and 2, only the front and rear hydraulic braking is employed as expressed by the following expressions (9D):

$T_{bcomf} = T_{dcomf},$
 $T_{bcomr} = T_{dcomr},$ and
 $T_{mcom} = 0.$ --- (9D)

[0063] At step S16 controller 24 calculates wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure command values P_{bcomf} and P_{bcomr} for front and rear wheels using a constant $K3$ on the basis of front and rear wheel hydraulic braking torque command values T_{bcomf} and T_{bcomr} , as follows.

$P_{bcomf} = -(T_{bcomf} \times K3)$
 $P_{bcomr} = -(T_{bcomr} \times K3)$ --- (10)

where $K3$ is the constant determined from the vehicle specifications previously stored in ROM.

[0064] At step S17 controller 24 calculates reference model response values P_{breff} and P_{brefr} of front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic command values P_{bcomf} and P_{bcomr} . The reference model response is a reference model response employed when hydraulic brake controller 18 shown in Fig. 1 executes the feedback control of the front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressures. This reference model response is designed such that the hydraulic pressure actual value corresponds to the reference model response having a predetermined delay relative to the hydraulic command value. The reference model response may be designed by other method except for the feedback control method, and may be designed such that as a result a special responsibility relative to a

command value of a hydraulic servo system achieves the characteristic of the control system.

[0065] A reference characteristic $F_{refb}(s)$ of the hydraulic servo system is, for example, represented by
5 the following expression (11).

$$F_{refb}(s) = 1/(T_{bref} \cdot s + 1) \quad \text{---(11)}$$

where T_{bref} is a time constant, characteristic $F_{refb}(s)$ is obtained by discretizing the expression (11) as is the same manner discussed above, and reference model response
10 values $P_{bref f}$ and $P_{bref r}$ for front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic command values $P_{bcom f}$ and $P_{bcom r}$ are also obtained by the same manner. Step S17 therefore corresponds to wheel-cylinder hydraulic reference model response value calculating means 35 in Fig. 2.

15 [0066] A hydraulic controller for wheel cylinders 2 in the first embodiment according to the present invention is constructed by a two-degree-of-freedom control system, and comprises a hydraulic control reference model 61, a feedforward compensator (phase compensator) 63, and a
20 feedback compensator 64, as shown in Fig. 9. Hydraulic control reference model 61 has a characteristic $F_{refb}(s)$. Feedforward compensator (phase compensator) 63 performs so as to correspond a response characteristic $P_B(s)$ of a controlled object vehicle (wheel-cylinder hydraulic
25 control system) 62 to characteristic $F_{refb}(s)$ of reference model 61.

[0067] Feedforward compensator 63 calculates a feedforward compensator quantity P_{ff} of the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure by filtering
30 wheel-cylinder hydraulic command value P_{bcom} through a characteristic $G_{FF}(s)$ represented by the following expression (12). Herein, P_{bcom} is represented as a

common of front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic command values P_{bcomf} and P_{bcomr} .

$$G_{FF}(s) = F_{refb}(s) / P_B(s) \quad \text{---(12)}$$

[0068] In calculation of feedback compensation
5 quantity P_{fb} using feedback compensator 64, reference model response value P_{bref} of the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure is first obtained by filtering wheel-cylinder hydraulic command value P_{bcom} through reference model 61 having a characteristic $F_{refb}(s)$.
10 Then, wheel-cylinder hydraulic feedback difference ΔP_b is obtained by subtracting an actual wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{wc} of controlled object (vehicle) 62 from wheel-cylinder hydraulic reference model response value P_{bref} as represented by the following expression
15 (13).

$$\Delta P_b = P_{bref} - P_{wc} \quad \text{---(13)}$$

[0069] Subsequently, wheel-cylinder hydraulic feedback compensation quantity P_{fb} is obtained by filtering feedback difference ΔP_b through a feedback compensator 64
20 having a characteristic $G_{FB}(s)$ represented by the following expression (14).

$$G_{FB}(s) = (K_p \cdot s + K_i) / s \quad \text{---(14)}$$

In this embodiment, this characteristic is achieved by a basic PI controller, and therefore control constants K_p
25 and K_i thereof are determined taking account of a gain margin and a phase margin.

[0070] Subsequently, a wheel-cylinder hydraulic control current I_{com} is obtained from the sum of feedforward compensation quantity P_{ff} of wheel-cylinder
30 hydraulic pressure and feedback compensation quantity P_{fb} ,

and is outputted as a wheel-cylinder hydraulic control command to controlled object (vehicle) 62.

[0071] At step S18 controller 24 calculates front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic control errors ΔPbf and ΔPbr from the following expressions. More specifically, controller 24 calculates front wheel-cylinder hydraulic control errors ΔPbf between front wheel-cylinder hydraulic reference model response value $Pbreff$ and front wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure $Pwcf$, and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic control errors ΔPbr between rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic reference model response value $Pbrefr$ and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure $Pwcr$. In Fig. 1, actual front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressures $Pwcf$ and $Pwcr$ are represented as Pwc , and In Fig. 2, control errors ΔPbf and ΔPbr are represented as ΔPb . Step S18 corresponds to hydraulic pressure control error calculating means 36 in Fig. 2.

$$\Delta Pbf = Pbreff - Pwcf$$

$$\Delta Pbr = Pbrefr - Pwcr \quad \text{---(15)}$$

[0072] At step S19 controller 24 converts front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic control errors ΔPbf and ΔPbr to the corresponding braking torque ΔTbf and ΔTbr , respectively, using the following expressions (16).

$$\Delta Tbf = -(\Delta Pbf \div K3)$$

$$\Delta Tbr = -(\Delta Pbr \div K3) \quad \text{---(16)}$$

where $K3$ is a conversion coefficient based on the vehicle specification previously stored in ROM. Step S19 corresponds to torque converting means 37 in Fig. 2.

[0073] At step S20 controller 24 obtains the sum ΔTb of braking torque conversion values $\Delta Tbrf$ and ΔTbr of the

hydraulic control errors from the following expression (17).

$$\Delta T_b = \Delta T_{bf} + \Delta T_{br} \quad \text{---(17)}$$

[0074] Further, controller 24 obtains regenerative
5 braking torque correction quantity ΔT_m by compensating
the summed braking torque conversion value ΔT_b using a
phase advance compensation $G_{ph}(s)$ represented by the
following expression (18).

$$G_{ph}(s) = (T_m \cdot s + 1) / (T_{ph} \cdot s + 1) \quad \text{---(18)}$$

10 where T_m is a time constant, and T_{ph} is a time constant
where $T_{ph} \ll T_m$. Step S20 corresponds to phase advance
compensating means 38 in Fig. 2.

[0075] Time constant T_m of the response characteristic
in the regenerative braking torque control system is
15 processed in motor torque controller 21 so as to be
brought to time constant T_{bref} in reference model 61 of
the hydraulic braking torque control system. That is,
the reference model employed in this control has a
characteristic F_{refm} as same as the characteristic of the
20 hydraulic braking torque control system. This
arrangement is executed in view that when the hydraulic
braking torque control system and the regenerative
braking torque control system accurately follows the
reference model without generating a response error, the
25 total braking torque is always brought (adjusted) to the
command value even if the total braking-torque command
value or the braking torque distribution is varied.

[0076] At step S21 controller 24 obtains corrected
regenerative braking-torque command value $T_{mcom'}$ by
30 correcting regenerative braking-torque command value

Tmcom by regenerative braking-torque correction quantity ΔTm as represented by the following expression (19).

$$Tmcom' = Tmcom + \Delta Tm \quad \text{---(19)}$$

Step S21 corresponds to regenerative braking torque correcting means 39 in Fig. 2.

[0077] At step S22 controller 24 outputs corrected regenerative braking-torque command value $Tmcom'$ to motor torque controller 21 and front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic command values $Pbcomf$ and $Pbcomr$ to hydraulic brake controller 18.

[0078] Motor torque controller 21 controls motor 4 through inverter 22 to bring the actual regenerative torque closer to corrected regenerative braking torque $Tmcom'$. Hydraulic brake controller 18 controls solenoid values 13, 14 and 16 to bring the actual front and rear hydraulic braking torques closer to front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic command values $Pbcomf$ and $Pbcomr$, respectively.

[0079] The hybrid brake system employed in the first embodiment comprises the regenerative braking apparatus which is relatively superior in control responsibility and the hydraulic braking apparatus which is relatively inferior in control responsibility. As shown in Fig. 2, the coordinated brake control system of the hybrid brake system comprises: a total braking torque determining means (total braking force calculating means) 31 which determines total braking force (torque) command value $Tdcom$ according to the vehicle operating condition; a braking torque distributing means (braking force command value distributing means) 33 which distributes the total braking force command value $Tdcom$ to regenerative braking-torque command value $Tmcom$ and the hydraulic

braking-torque command value T_{bcm} ; a reference model response value calculating means 35 which calculates a reference model response value P_{bre} relative to a wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure (braking force) command value P_{bcom} , on the basis of a braking force reference model taking account of a delay of the actual hydraulic pressure (actual braking force) at the hydraulic control system relative to the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure (braking force) command value P_{bcom} ; and a regenerative braking force command value correcting means 39 which corrects the regenerative braking-torque command value T_{mcom} according to the braking force control error ΔP_b (ΔT_m) between the actual braking force estimated value P_{wc} and the reference model response value P_{bref} ; wherein the corrected regenerative braking-torque command value T_{mcom}' is employed in the control of the regenerative brake apparatus.

[0080] With this arrangement according to the first embodiment of the present invention, in the correction of regenerative braking-torque command value T_{mcom} for the regenerative brake apparatus performing a high control responsibility, regenerative braking-torque command torque T_{mcom} is corrected only by ΔT_m which varies according to the braking force control error ΔP_b between the actual braking force estimated value (actual braking force estimated value P_{wc}) relating to the hydraulic brake apparatus and the braking force command value (reference model response value P_{bref}) relating to the hydraulic braking apparatus.

[0081] Accordingly, it becomes possible to prevent the excessive correction which has been executed in the case that the braking force command value of the

high-responsibility brake apparatus is corrected on the basis of a difference between a command value and an actual value of the low-responsibility brake apparatus as in a related coordinated braking control system. This
5 solves a problem that the total braking force actual value largely deviates from the total braking force command value due to the execution of such an excessive correction.

[0082] More specifically, by setting the basic
10 distribution to the hydraulic braking torque and the regenerative braking torque so as to bring the total braking torque actual value closer to the total braking-torque command value when the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure is accurately controlled according to
15 the reference model response of the hydraulic control system, even if a difference is generated between the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure actual value and the reference model response value of the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure is generated by a large response delay,
20 an overshoot or a stationary difference, the difference is covered with the regenerative braking torque. Therefore, it is possible to bring the total braking torque actual value closer to the total braking-torque command value. This advantage is also achieved in case
25 that a braking operation quantity generated by a driver is varied, or in case that the distribution of the regenerative braking torque and the hydraulic braking torque is varied according to the vehicle operating condition.

30 [0083] Referring Figs 10A through 13F, there are discussed the advantages of the coordinated brake control

system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[0084] Figs. 10A through 10F are time charts showing a simulation result in case that wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error ΔP_b (braking force control error) is around zero during the control after master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is raised up at moment t_1 .

[0085] Figs. 11A through 11F are time charts showing a simulation result in case that the correction of the regenerative braking-torque command value by regenerative braking torque correcting means 39 shown in Fig. 2 and the phase advance compensation by phase advance compensating means 38 in Fig. 2 are not executed even when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error ΔP_b (braking force control error) is generated at moment t_3 during the control after master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is raised up at moment t_1 .

[0086] Figs. 12A through 12F are time charts showing a simulation result in case that the correction of the regenerative braking-torque command value by regenerative braking torque correcting means 39 shown in Fig. 2 is executed, and the phase advance compensation by phase advance compensating means 38 in Fig. 2 is not executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error ΔP_b (braking force control error) is generated at moment t_3 during the control after master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is raised up at moment t_1 .

[0087] Figs. 13A through 13F are time charts showing a simulation result in case that both of the correction of the regenerative braking-torque command value by regenerative braking torque correcting means 39 shown in Fig. 2 and the phase advance compensation by phase

advance compensating means 38 in Fig. 2 are executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error ΔP_b (braking force control error) is generated at moment t_3 during the control after master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is raised up at moment t_1 .

[0088] The simulations shown in Figs. 10A though 13F were executed under the same condition. The condition is that the same constant-force braking from a predetermined vehicle speed is executed, that the regenerative coordinating brake control is started just after a moment t_1 when a brake pedal is depressed, that during a low-speed traveling after moment t_2 at when vehicle speed VSP is lowered to a set vehicle speed, the regenerative braking torque is gradually decreased as vehicle speed VSP is lowered and the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressures of the front wheels or rear wheels are increased by the decreased quantity of the regenerative braking torque so as to correspond the total braking torque to the total braking-torque command value, and that the regenerative coordinated braking control is stopped just before the vehicle stops. Further, as discussed above, the total braking-torque command value is corrected so as to eliminate the influence of the disturbance by employing the deceleration feedback control in the first embodiment.

[0089] When the hydraulic control system idealistically functions, the vehicle deceleration (a deceleration of the driving wheels) is controlled at a constant value in response to the depression condition of the brake pedal as shown in Figs. 10A through 10F, particularly in Fig. 10B. The time charts in Figs. 10A through 10F are compared with the time charts in Figs. 11A through 13F in view of the operation at the time when

hydraulic control error ΔP_b (braking force control error) is generated.

[0090] Figs. 11A through 13F basically show a case that the actual value of the front wheel-cylinder
5 hydraulic pressure is momentarily and largely lowered relative to the command value due to the generation of a trouble in the front wheel brake hydraulic control system at moment t_3 in a transient period after moment t_2 .

[0091] If neither the correction of the regenerative
10 braking-torque command value through means 39 nor the phase advance compensation through means 38 is executed under the above-explained case as is the case represented by Figs. 11A through 11F, the control depends on only the feedback deceleration. Therefore, the compensation
15 control cannot follow the actual change due to the response speed of the deceleration feedback control, and the deceleration of the driving wheel (front wheel) is momentarily and largely decreased in magnitude as shown in Fig. 11B. The reason thereof is that the error of the
20 wheel cylinder 2 has a relatively large time lag in actually generating the driving wheel deceleration.

[0092] Figs. 12A through 12F show time charts in case that corrected regenerative braking-torque command value T_{mcom}' is varied by executing the correction of the
25 regenerative braking-torque command value using the means 39 in Fig. 2, even if the front wheel brake hydraulic control system is put in a trouble state at moment t_3 .

[0093] At moment t_3 when the actual value of the front wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure is momentarily and
30 largely lowered due to the trouble of the front wheel braking hydraulic control system, the hydraulic control error is rapidly compensated by the corrected

regenerative braking-torque command value by converting the control error between the actual value and the command value into a error-correction torque and by adding the error-correction torque to the regenerative braking-torque command value. Therefore, it becomes possible to largely suppress the fluctuation of the driving wheel deceleration at moment t3, as compared with the case in Figs. 11A through 11F.

[0094] Figs. 13A through 13F show time charts in case that corrected regenerative braking-torque command value T_{mcom}' is varied by executing the correction of the regenerative braking-torque command value using the means 39 in Fig. 2 and that the phase advance compensation is executed using the means 38 in Fig. 3, even if the front wheel brake hydraulic control system is put in a trouble state at moment t3.

[0095] In this case of executing both of the correction of the regenerative braking-torque command value and the phase advance compensation, the phase advance compensation functions to extremely decrease the delay of the regenerative braking torque control system relative to the command value. Therefore, the influence of the wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressure control error to the total braking torque is compensated by correcting the regenerative braking torque as possible, and consequently it becomes possible to further largely suppress the fluctuation of the driving wheel deceleration at moment t3, as compared with the case shown in Figs. 12A through 12F.

[0096] Furthermore, the first embodiment according to the present invention is arranged such that the regenerative braking-torque command value is determined

within maximum braking torque limit value $T_{max}(Lim)$ obtained by limiting the allowable maximum regenerative braking torque T_{max} by the predetermined value with reference to the relationship shown in Fig. 7, at step 5 S14 before the total braking-torque command value is distributed into regenerative braking-torque command value T_{mcom} and hydraulic braking-torque command value T_{bcom} at step S15. Therefore, it becomes possible to ensure a margin for correcting regenerative 10 braking-torque command value T_{mcom} based on the wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error, and the advantage by this correction of regenerative braking-torque command value T_{mcom} is firmly ensured.

[0097] Further, the first embodiment according to the 15 present invention is arranged such that the regenerative brake apparatus is employed as a high-response braking means and a friction type brake apparatus is employed as a low-response braking means, and that the coordinated brake control system is adapted to the hybrid brake 20 system which is a combination of the regenerative brake apparatus and the friction type brake apparatus. Therefore, even if the friction type brake apparatus having a low-control-responsibility generates a transient control error, the regenerative brake apparatus having a 25 high-control-responsibility covers the shortage of the braking torque generated by the control error, and consequently the total braking-torque command value is achieved. Therefore, it becomes possible to prevent the driver from having the strange feeling during the 30 brake-pedal operating period.

[0098] Although the first embodiment according to the present invention has been shown and described such that

the friction type brake apparatus is employed as the hydraulic brake apparatus, it may not be limited to this, and there may be employed an electromotive brake system of pressing friction elements to a rotating disc or drum
5 using an electric motor.

[0099] Referring to Figs. 14A and 17F, there is discussed a second embodiment of the coordinated brake control system according to the present invention. The basis construction of the second embodiment is basically
10 the same as that of the first embodiment shown in Fig. 1.

[0100] The second embodiment is specifically arranged as shown in Fig. 14B such that a high-frequency component extracting means 40 is newly added between the means 37 and 38 of Fig. 2. A flowchart of Fig. 14A newly includes
15 steps S20a and S20b instead of step S20 of the flowchart in Fig. 3. The other steps of the flowchart executed in the second embodiment are basically the same as steps shown in Fig. 3, and therefore the explanation of the other steps is omitted herein. The second embodiment is
20 specifically arranged as shown in Fig. 14B such that a high-frequency component extracting means 40 is newly added between the means 37 and 38 of Fig. 2. As to steps S20a and S20b, the explanation is made as follows.

[0101] At step S20a in Fig. 14A subsequent to the
25 execution of step S19, controller 24 extracts a high-frequency component from a total control-error torque conversion value ΔT_b ($\Delta T_b = \Delta T_{bf} + \Delta T_{br}$) of the hydraulic control error by filtering total control-error torque conversion value ΔT_b ($\Delta T_b = \Delta T_{bf} + \Delta T_{br}$) through a
30 bypass filter $G_{hpf}(s)$ represented by the following expression (20).

$$G_{hpf}(s) = T_{hpf} \cdot s / (T_{hpf} \cdot s + 1) \quad \text{--- (20)}$$

where T_{hpf} is a time constant. Therefore, step S20a corresponds to high-frequency component extracting means 40 in Fig. 14B.

[0102] At step S20b subsequent to the execution of
5 step S20a, controller 24 calculates regenerative braking torque correction value ΔT_m by compensating the high-frequency component of total control-error torque conversion value ΔT_b of the hydraulic control error using a phase advance compensator $G_{ph}(s)$ represented by the
10 expression (20). Therefore, step S20B corresponds to a high-frequency component extracting means 40 of Fig. 14B. After the execution of step S20b, the program proceeds to step S21.

[0103] With the thus arranged second embodiment
15 according to the present invention, total braking-torque command value T_{dcom} is determined by the deceleration feedback control so as to bring the actual deceleration α_v closer to target deceleration α_{dem} according to the vehicle operating condition.

20 [0104] The high-frequency component of total control-error torque conversion value ΔT_b of the hydraulic control error is obtained by filtering total control-error torque conversion value ΔT_b through the bypass filter, and is employed in the correction of the
25 regenerative braking torque without directly employing of total control-error torque conversion value ΔT_b .

Therefore, the coordinated brake control system of the second embodiment according to the present invention also ensures the following advantages.

30 [0105] The second embodiment according to the present invention is arranged such that the regenerative braking

torque is corrected so as to be decreased when front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic control errors ΔP_{bf} and ΔP_{br} (ΔP_b in Fig. 2) are generated such that front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic pressures P_{wcf} and P_{wcr} (P_{wc} in Fig. 1) detected by sensor 20 becomes greater
5 than front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic reference model response values P_{breff} and P_{brefr} obtained at step S17.

[0106] Further, the second embodiment is arranged to
10 employ only the high-frequency component of total control-error torque conversion value ΔT_b in the correction of the regenerative braking torque, and therefore the correction is executed during a transient period where front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic
15 control errors ΔP_{bf} and ΔP_{br} are varying, and is not executed during a steady state where front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic control errors ΔP_{bf} and ΔP_{br} are stable. This arrangement of the second embodiment according to the present invention therefore prevents the
20 lowering correction of the regenerative braking torque from being continuously and excessively executed even when front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic control errors ΔP_{bf} and ΔP_{br} are stable. Consequently, it becomes possible to avoid a detrimental effect of
25 lowering the energy efficiency.

[0107] Referring to Figs. 15A through 17F, there are discussed the advantages of the second embodiment according to the present invention. Figs. 15A through 17F show time charts in case that although
30 master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is increased stepwise at a moment t_1 , front and rear wheel-cylinder

actual hydraulic pressures P_{wcf} and P_{wcr} become steadily larger than front and rear wheel-cylinder hydraulic reference model response values P_{breff} and P_{brefr} , respectively, due to the trouble of the front and rear wheel brake system at a moment t_3 .

[0108] More specifically, Figs. 15A through 15F show time charts in case that only the deceleration feedback control is executed. In other words, only the deceleration feedback control is executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error ΔP_b (braking force control error) is generated at moment t_3 during the control after master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is raised up at moment t_1 .

[0109] Figs. 16A through 16F show time charts in case that the regenerative braking torque is corrected by the hydraulic control error in addition to the execution of the deceleration feedback control. That is, the deceleration feedback control and the phase-advance compensation are executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error ΔP_b (braking force control error) is generated at moment t_3 during the control after master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is raised up at moment t_1 , in this case.

[0110] Further, Figs. 17A through 17F show time charts in case that the regenerative braking torque is corrected only by the high-frequency component of the hydraulic control error according to the embodiment of the present invention. That is, the deceleration feedback control, the phase-advance compensation and the high-pass filtering process of the hydraulic control error are executed when wheel-cylinder hydraulic control error ΔP_b (braking force control error) is generated at moment t_3

during the control after master-cylinder hydraulic pressure P_{mc} is raised up at moment t_1 , in this case.

[0111] When only the deceleration feedback control is executed, the actual deceleration α_v largely fluctuates at moment t_3 as shown in Figs. 15A through 15F. Therefore, this fluctuation is converged to the command value α_{dem} by executing the deceleration feedback control.

[0112] When the regenerative braking torque is corrected by the hydraulic control error in addition to the execution of the deceleration feedback control, the fluctuation of the actual deceleration α_v is momentarily decreased at moment t_3 , and this correction of the regenerative torque continuously decreases the absolute value of the regenerative braking torque after moment t_3 , as shown in Figs. 16A through 16F. Therefore, as is apparent from the comparison with the case of Figs. 15A through 15F in regenerative quantity, the energy efficiency is lowered.

[0113] When the regenerative braking torque is corrected only by the high-frequency component of the hydraulic control error according to the embodiment of the present invention, the fluctuation of the actual deceleration α_v at moment t_3 is decreased by this correction as shown in Figs. 17A through 17F. Further, since this correction using the high-frequency component is executed only during the transient state just after moment t_3 , the absolute value of the regenerative braking torque is quickly converged to the maximum regenerative braking torque $T_{max}(Lim)$ so as to obtain the regenerative quantity which is generally the same as that

of Fig. 15F. Therefore it becomes possible to prevent the lowering of the energy efficiency.

[0114] Further, even if the deceleration is again fluctuated by not executing the correction of the regenerative braking torque under the steady state, such a correction under the steady state is sufficiently corrected by the deceleration feedback control. This is easily understood from the phenomenon that during a period Δt from the starting moment t_3 of the correction of the deceleration fluctuation to a starting moment t_4 of the limiting of the regenerative braking torque, the fluctuation of the deceleration does not generate a large difference.

[0115] Finally, since each of the embodiments of the present invention is arranged to correct the regenerative braking torque by a feedforward method based on the hydraulic control error, there is caused no interference between the deceleration feedback control and the feedforward control, even if this feedforward method is employed with the deceleration feedback control.

[0116] This application is based on prior Japanese Patent Applications Nos. 2003-57299 and 2002-268794. The entire contents of the Japanese Patent Applications No. 2003-57299 with a filing date of March 4, 2003 and No. 2002-268794 with a filing date of September 13, 2002 are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0117] Although the invention has been described above by reference to certain embodiments of the invention, the invention is not limited to the embodiments described above. Modifications and variations of the embodiments described above will occur to those skilled in the art in

light of the above teachings. The scope of the invention is defined with reference to the following claims.